

REMARKS

As advised in a July 26, 2004 telephone conference with the Examiner, applicants hereby request that the Examiner consider the above method claims for further prosecution in the present case and withdraw the finality of her previous March 30, 2004 Action.

As all rejections in the March 30, 2004 Action relate to claims now cancelled, they are moot. The presently pending claims have not been rejected.

Applicants would like to comment, however, on the Examiner's remark that "dehydroalanine" is indefinite because alanine does not contain a hydroxyl group. Applicants submit respectfully that the "dehydro-" does not necessarily refer just to dehydration but may also refer to dehydrogenation. In the present case, it refers to a dehydrogenated alanine. In dehydroalanine, the radical group of the amino acid is  $\text{CH}_2$  (bonded to the rest of the molecule with a double bond) as opposed to alanine where the radical group is  $\text{CH}_3$ .

Application No. 10/018,875  
Attorney Docket No. P 28,173 USA

July 30, 2004  
Art Unit 1652

Conclusion

For the reasons expressed above, applicants request respectfully that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections presented in her March 30, 2004 Action and withdraw the finality thereof.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, an early and favorable action is requested respectfully.

Respectfully submitted,



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